



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

having emanated from a former antarctic continent. The indigenous terrestrial species of Lumbricidæ found in North America should for the present be looked upon with suspicion in connection with their true habitat. The family of Lumbricidæ has received model treatment in Michaelsen's monograph. The book ends with a very perfect register,—a desideratum not always found in transatlantic scientific works. Taking it all in all, this splendid monograph cannot be too highly praised. It is not only indispensable to all students of the class, but it is so complete that for the identification of the species the older literature is made almost superfluous. As regards nomenclature, Dr. Michaelsen's ideas are almost final; while as regards classification they are sure to remain unchanged for many years. A perusal of the volume shows one thing which should be encouraging to all students of earthworms; that is, compared to the terrestrial Oligochæta the limicolide forms are almost unknown, and it is evident that it is among the latter that the greatest novelties will be found in the future.

GUSTAV EISEN.

BOTANY.

A Botany for Children.—Professor Atkinson in an attractive little book entitled *First Studies in Plant Life*¹ follows the current practice of presenting vital phenomena to the young beginner, rather than details of form. The first part gives a brief account of the growth and parts of plants, the second and third discuss their work and behavior, the fourth gives the life story of a sweet pea, an oak, a fern, a moss, and a mushroom, and the fifth treats of the battles of plants in the world. The illustrations are of exceptional excellence. Many ingenious and simple experiments are introduced. Much of the text seems likely to interest young people, and any teacher may gain valuable suggestions from the book.

A prevailing fault, however, is a more or less obvious "writing down" to the young reader, becoming at times mere sentimentality such as intelligent children resent. It is hard to see how the following passage, for example, can serve any useful purpose: "Some will

¹ Atkinson, George Francis, Ph.B., Professor of Botany, Cornell University. *First Studies of Plant Life*. Boston, Ginn & Company, 1901. 12mo. xii + 266 pp., 308 figs.

tell you that such interesting plants as the ferns, mosses, mushrooms, and puffballs are *cryptogams*, and that therefore you should not try to read the stories they have to tell. But why call them cryptogams? That is a terrible word, that ought to be blotted out of the English language. Why not call them plants, as they are? They are just as much God's creatures as the dandelion and thistle and smartweed are. They are just as interesting too, and mean as much in our lives as they do."

Furthermore, it may be questioned whether some of the topics to which considerable space is given—as, for example, turgidity, plasmolysis, and various microscopic details—are really within the comprehension of young beginners. Every one who has studied children knows what confused and perverted ideas they will often get regarding matters of much greater simplicity than belongs to some of the physiological topics here presented. It is hard enough to give college students clear ideas of microscopic mechanisms and life processes.

Only a few errors of statement have been noticed, but there is one which is sure to bewilder the pupil. On page 14 it is said of the bean that the embryo plant (meaning the plumule) is attached to the cotyledons. Then on page 19 it is asked if this small object which looks like a tiny plant is the embryo, and the reader is left to suppose that it is. Finally, on page 22 the reader is told most impressively that all inside the seed coat and its lining is the embryo, and that the embryo thus includes the cotyledons.

F. L. S.

A New Publication on Woody Plants.—Houghton, Mifflin & Co. announce that they will issue next autumn the first part of a new publication, *Trees and Shrubs*, consisting of text edited by Professor Sargent, and plates from drawing by Mr. Faxon, pertaining to woody plants, particularly those adapted to the gardens of Europe and the United States, or of commercial or economic importance. The sample pages and plates that have been distributed with the prospectus show, as would have been expected, excellence in drawing and publication, and the happy mean between technicality and popular writing which mark the *Silva* is likely to be maintained by Professor Sargent in this new publication, which in size and general appearance will bear considerable resemblance to the *Silva*. Two parts, each consisting of twenty-five plates and costing \$5.00, are expected to appear yearly.